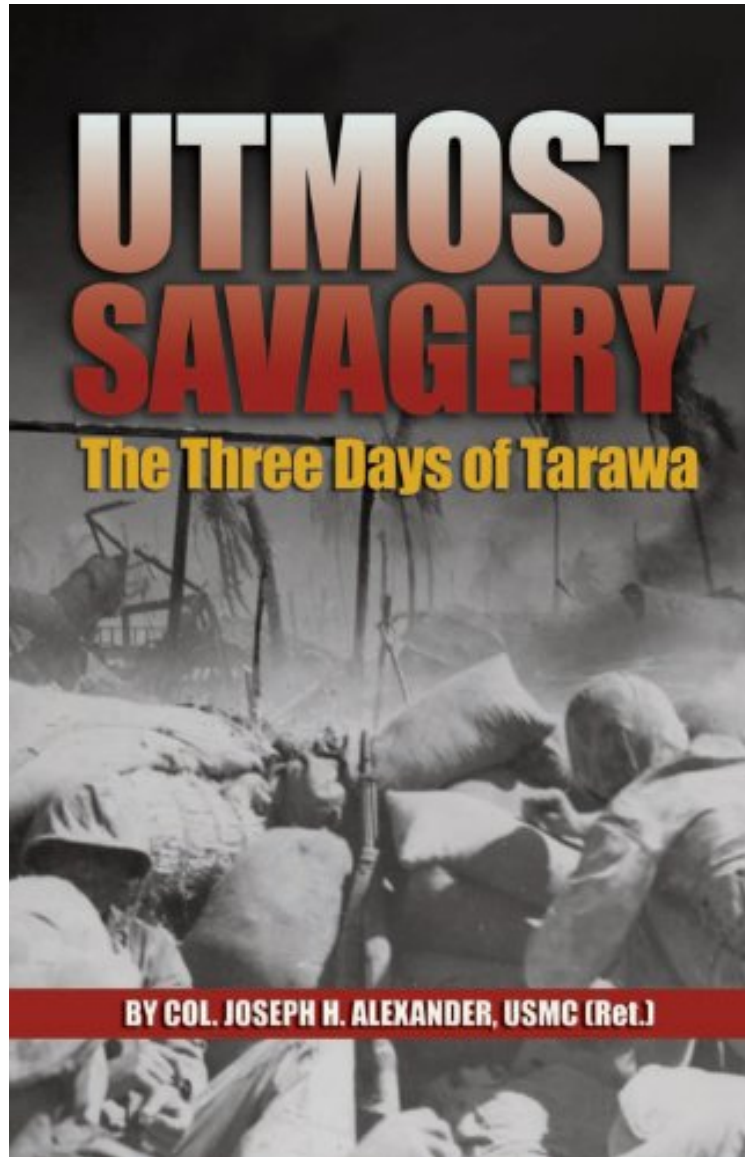


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## Utmost Savagery: The Three Days of Tarawa

*Von Joseph H. Alexander*

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**Von Joseph H. Alexander : Utmost Savagery: The Three Days of Tarawa** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Utmost Savagery: The Three Days of Tarawa:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A military analysis, not a war story.Von johnboutlan@mindspring.comWhile the book gives a thorough description of the battle, it is more a military analysis than a war story. The author discusses many military aspects of the campaign,

including background on the decision to attack the Gilberts and the planning of Operation Galvanic, the problems preparing for the attack, the nightmarish experience of the Marines in the landing, the post-battle recognition of the Betio assault as a watershed between Gallipoli and Normandy in the history of amphibious warfare, and much more. Many of the complexities of this type of assault were encountered for the first time at Betio, emerging as critical failures at great cost of life, such as proper equipment for crossing the shallow reef of an atoll while under fire, the consequences of inadequate communications and the failure of the pre-landing artillery barrage to suppress the defense, all of which are discussed in detail. Many of these problems were solved as the battle progressed, and the author describes how new assault tactics were developed by units in the field. The portion of the book which chronicles the assault itself was painstakingly researched and documented, and though it includes accounts of individual actions and heroism, there is very little first-person narrative other than comments used as corroboration for some conclusion by the author. Nonetheless, the "utmost savagery" and horror of close combat to the death by thousands of highly trained, heavily armed men on this small, flat island is clearly communicated. I appreciated the inclusion of the Japanese side of the story; the explanation of their overall situation at this point in the war, their defensive strategy and preparations for the assault, unrealized plans for a counterattack against the American fleet, and accounts from the few Japanese survivors are very illuminating and add important context to the story. Although I can't say I "enjoyed" the book in the usual sense - does one "enjoy" a textbook? - I have gained a larger understanding and appreciation of the battle that will be most useful as I go on to read other, more personal accounts.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Issue in Doubt Von George R Dekle Just before the fall of Wake, the Marines defending that island radioed the message, "Issue in doubt." Just after the first waves of Marines hit the beaches at Tarawa and waded into the most hellish opposition imaginable, the landing party sent out the message "Issue in doubt." No Marine could mistake the import of that doleful sentence. On the brink of being thrown back into the sea, they held on, and then they advanced. Rear Admiral Keiji Shibasaki, the defender of Tarawa, had told his troops that it would take a million men a thousand years to capture the island. It took the Marines three days, but victory came at a terrible cost. The carnage was so horrific that when news of the cost of victory got back to the United States, enlistments in the Marine Corps plummeted. As Col. Alexander takes the reader through those three hellish days, you cannot help but be awed by the suffering the Marines endured, and by the courage they displayed. It makes one wonder how the men could perform at all, much less perform as well as they did. A gripping story of epic heroism in the face of near insurmountable odds--and it's true.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Transports you to the slaughter Von Richard P. Mayhew Col. Alexander has produced an excellent blow by blow description of the taking of the Bieto Atoll. The horror of discovering that the landing craft were not able to negotiate the reef, the long march through the surf, all the while under fire. Called "The Japanese Alamo" you will be amazed at the eerie radio intercepts that Col. Alexander has included of the Japanese garrison's communications with the Japanese High Command. He does a fine job of describing the combatants and weapons. He sets the scenario up in a clear and easy to understand language. Tarawa is a small island, there was no way off for either side other than to annihilate the other. I was not aware of some things Col. Alexander brings to light in this book, for example the Japanese use of British cannons and Korean laborers/slaves. You cannot put this one down once you start it.

Kurzbeschreibung On November 20, 1943, in the first trial by fire of America's fledgling amphibious assault doctrine, five thousand men stormed the beaches of Tarawa, a seemingly invincible Japanese island fortress barely the size of the Pentagon parking lots (three-hundred acres!). Before the first day ended, one third of the Marines who had crossed Tarawa's deadly reef under murderous fire were killed, wounded, or missing. In three days of fighting, four Americans would win the Medal of Honor. And six-thousand combatants would die. Now, Col. Joseph Alexander, a combat Marine himself, presents the full story of Tarawa in all its horror and glory: the extreme risks, the horrific combat, and the heroic breakthroughs. Based on exhaustive research, never-before-published accounts from Marine survivors, and new evidence from Japanese sources, Colonel Alexander captures the grit, guts, and relentless courage of United States Marines overcoming outrageous odds to deliver victory for their country.